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THE abbey gateway at Tewkesbury, represented by the annexed engraving, is supposed to have been erected by Abbot Parker, at the beginning of the fifteenth century. It is the property of Mr. John Martin, the present member for Tewkesbury, by whom it has been restored, under the direction of Mr. Medland, architect.

It was in a ruinous and dilapidated state, entirely roofless, and the walls covered with a luxuriant plantation. A considerable portion of the walls was taken down and rebuilt—the stones being replaced precisely in their former position, and the whole of the stonework thoroughly repaired.

The building has been roofed with wrought timbers in panels, with curved and moulded brackets, supported by stone corbels with carved heads, and shields bearing appropriate devices.

The roof is covered with lead, forming an area, from which a commanding view of the beautiful scenery of the surrounding country can be obtained.

Some further restorations are still in contemplation. The total cost, to the present period, is about £400., which has been liberally expended by Mr. Martin, with the view of preserving this interesting relic. Messrs. Call and Collins, of Tewkesbury, were the builders.

SCULPTURE FOR THE NEW HOUSE OF LORDS.—According to the *Art-Journal*, Gibson, the sculptor, is now occupied in making a design, at Rome, for a national monument for the House of Lords, which affords high promise of beauty. It consists of the statue of her Majesty, supported by two figures—one representing Wisdom, the other Victory. On the pedestal are three bas-reliefs, representing Commerce, Science, and Agriculture, the triple root of Britannia's grandeur.

LOW PRICE OF TIMBER.—At a sale of timber held in Worcester during the past week, twenty-three large elm trees, and sixty-eight prime hearty oak trees, were sold by auction; the former realising at from 8d. to 11d. per cube foot, and the latter from 1s. 3d. to 2s. 1d.

CLEAR SPACE FOR ST. PAUL'S.

THERE seems to be every reason to believe that one of THE BUILDER's little paper pellets, furthered through the great guns of the newspaper press, and re-aimed by a steady and determined hand, is now about to level the inner space around St. Paul's, demolishing the iron railing which detracts so much from the dignity of its aspect, on the one hand, while creating, on the other, an unnecessary strait in the circulation of life at the core of the city that certainly destroys as completely, in noisy and irreverent squabbles and confusion, all the quiet dignity of its precinct.

Mr. Barber, a common councilman of the vicinity, acting on a suggestion in THE BUILDER—honourably acknowledged and quoted—has had printed, at his own expense, a circular pointing out the nature of the projected improvement, with a lithographed elevation of the building as divested of its ruffle of railing, and provided with a clear and open pavement and a widened street around it, but to be protected still where necessary, only close to the walls, and without derogation to the general effect of the improvement.

At considerable expense of time and trouble also, Mr. Barber obtained a requisition signed by forty-five of the principal firms located in the ward of Castle Baynard, calling a ward-mote, which was held on Friday last, when Mr. Barber explained his plan, and called attention to the western part of Westminster Abbey now fully exposed to the admirers of ecclesiastical architecture; to the improvements and alterations near St. Martin's Church, Westminster, effected with the same view; to the Royal Exchange and its noble portico, and to other public buildings. He said, with reference to his plan, that in order to accomplish it, the cost would be very inconsiderable: not a single house would have to be pulled down, and there was not a citizen of London who would be put to the slightest inconvenience by the carrying out of the improvement. He had earnestly invited the speedy attention of the ecclesiastical authorities and the corporation of the city of London to the proposition, and he felt confident that it would be kindly

received, because they had to deal with the exigencies of the present time, and not with the circumstances of fifty years back. It had been said that if the present prison-like palisading was removed, all sorts of nuisance would be committed. Now, the fact was, that at the present time many nuisances of an unmentionable character were committed there, and this, therefore, instead of being an argument for the retention of the railing, was a convincing one in favour of its removal.

Mr. Pritchard (the high bailiff of Southwark) was of opinion that this improvement was a matter of public necessity, and there was scarcely any one who had not been struck with surprise, now it was pointed out to them, that it had not been done before.

The meeting was addressed by various other gentlemen, and resolutions were passed, one of them to the effect that a petition be presented to the Commissioners of Sewers, praying that court to apply to the proper ecclesiastical authorities for the removal of the wall and iron railings, according to the plan before the meeting, and upon obtaining their consent, to adopt measures for its execution.

Mr. Barber, while responding to a vote of thanks for his exertions, said he fully hoped to see his plan realized by the time that London would be filled with foreigners from every land at the opening of the International Exhibition on 1st of May, 1851.

The proceedings evidently excited great interest, and the Wardmote was most respectfully attended by common-councilmen and other citizens.

The city Commission of Sewers have since considered the petition of the Wardmote, and unanimously resolved,—

"That the public convenience would be promoted, and the architectural beauty of the western end of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul much better displayed, if the dwarf wall and railing around the enclosed vacant area of ground in front thereof were removed, and the space paved with flagstones, in manner similar to that at the western end of the Royal Exchange."

A deputation was also at once appointed to wait upon the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London on the subject.